sent to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's Relief Fund vide cheque No. 201865 dated 18.11.96.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. NSFDC had deputed its Zonal Officer, Hyderabad to visit' areas affected by cyclone to take stock of the situation and the extent of demage suffered by SCs and STs covered under NSFDC's schemes and also to suggest measures for providing other assistance to the affected SC & ST families. On the basis of the recommendations of the State channelising agency, necessary remedial measures will be taken by the NSFDC.

(e) and (f) The Prime Minsiter of India made an appeal to the Nation to contribute to the Andhra Pradesh C.M's Cyclone Relief Fund. The Cabinet Secretary also made an appeal to the employees of Govt, of India to contribute atlcst one day's salary towards the Relief Fund.

Quantitative Restrictions on Trade

1660. SHRI M.D. SALIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the reasons for the Indian Government surrendering its discretionary rights when the member countries of WTO are allowed to continue with the quantitative restrictions as long as they wish?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): Article

XI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1944 provides that no prohibitions or restrictions other than duties, taxes or charges, whether made effective through quotas, import or export licences or other measures shall be maintained by any Member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). However, exceptions to these provisions are available. In the interest of safeguarding our balance of payments, India has been maintaining quantitative restrictions on imports under the exceptional provisions of Article XII, since 1948, and under Article XVIII of the GATT, since 1950. At present, India is one among seven WTO Members that invokes these exceptional provisions.

For WTO member that invoke these provisions, it is provided that a member must progressively relax the restrictions as conditions improve and must eliminate them when the conditions no longer justify their maintenance. It is also provided that the member must announce publicly, as soon as possible, time schedules for the elimination of the, restrictions, and that, if a public announcement is not pssible, justification as to the reasons therefor must be provided by the Member.

A Member taking recourse to Article XVIII is required to have periodic consultations with the WTO Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions, which is open to all Members of the WTO. India's consultations with this Committee, which involve a detailed examination of the balance of payments measures and related policies of Members applying the measures, were held in December 1995, and are scheduled to.be resumed in January 1997.

आवश्यक वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति

1661. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह:**
श्रीमती भालचंती शर्मा:

क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) राज्यों को आवश्यक वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति हेतु क्या मानदण्ड हैं;

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश, राजस्थान और हरियाणा को आपूर्ति की गई आवश्यक वस्तुओं की मात्रा का वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में वर्ष 1996-97 के लिए आवश्यक वस्तुओं की